GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1138
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIO-TECHNOLOGY, TRIVANDRUM
V.S. SIVAKUMAR

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to upgrade the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Bio-Technology, Trivandrum, as a National Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is received from the Government of Kerala in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram has been supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) since its inception in a programme support mode based on the expert advice.The areas covered have been infectious diseases, environmental biotechnology, plant molecular biology, transgenic plants and animals, molecular biology of genetic diseases and molecular basis of biological function. Phase-I of the programme support ended in December 2002. DBT has further supported the Centre for a period of two years from January 2003 onwards.

(c) & (d) : Communications have been received from the Government of Kerala proposing taking over of RGCB by the DBT. Based on the expert advice, and in consultation with RGCB, while the research activities are continuing with the financial support of DBT, taking over of RGCB has been deferred until the end of the programme support.